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12/14/91

## INITIAL POLREP

DATE: 12/16/91

FROM: BRAD BENNING, OSC, EERB, RESPONSE SECTION II

TO: S. LUFTIG - ATTN: TERRY JOHNSON, USEPA, OSWER, WASH, D.C.  
B. BOWDEN, BRANCH CHIEF, EERB, CHICAGO, IL  
D. BRUCE, SECTION CHIEF, EERB II, CHICAGO, IL  
B. CARSON, IEPA  
G. CHANCE, LCHD  
K. MARSHALL, IDPH

SUBJECT: OTTAWA MERCURY SITE, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

POLREP: POLREP 1

SITE NO: PR  
D.O. NO: 7640-05-206  
RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA  
NPL STATUS: NON-NPL  
START DATE: 12/10/91

## 1. SITUATION

The Ottawa/Grandadam site is a private residence located in Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois. On October 15 or 16, 1991, approximately 3 to 4 ounces of metallic mercury was spilled in the home by the children living there. On the same day the children spilled an unknown quantity of mercury into a backyard fire at the same residence. One of the children became ill and was diagnosed as having mercury poisoning. The other seven occupants of the home were tested and found to have elevated blood mercury levels. All occupants have vacated the premises by order of LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD). Investigations by the LCHD, Illinois Department of Public Health, and United States Environmental Protection Agency determined that the residence contained elevated levels of mercury that posed a threat to the health of the occupants.

## 2. SITE ACTIVITIES

On 12/10/91 ERCS and TAT mobed to the site. Initial mercury levels of 0.012 mg/m<sup>3</sup> were obtained within the house. Small beads of mercury were visible on soil near the backyard burn areas. Burn

areas and all site entrances were secured with fence posts and caution tape. A trailer for storage of furniture was obtained.

On 12/11/91 ERCS initiated moving furniture, clothing, etc. out of the house. An office trailer, rolloff box, and night security were obtained. The surface one inch of soil from the burn areas and approximately 10 feet surrounding each one was excavated, staged on visqueen, and covered. Clothing and miscellaneous other items were inventoried and loaded into rolloff.

On 12/12/91 ERCS resumed moving furniture, clothing, etc. out of the house. TAT inventoried items that were placed in rolloff box. ERCS began removing carpeting, washing walls and vacuuming baseboards and windows in house.

On 12/13/91 ERCS continued moving furniture, clothing, etc. to storage trailer; removing carpeting and linoleum; vacuuming baseboards and windows; and washing walls. After front bedroom was washed, TAT took a swipe of the walls and obtained a reading of 0.000 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Babies' bedroom was also washed. A swipe revealed a reading of 0.003 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. TAT inventoried all items in basement. A second rolloff box was obtained.

### 3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- o Continue loading household items in rolloff
- o Obtain disposal for rolloffs
- o Continue removing carpeting
- o Continue cleaning walls
- o Paint walls and ceilings
- o Confirmation of cleanup air sampling
- o Confirmation of cleanup soil sampling

### 4. COSTS

	<u>CEILING</u>	<u>COSTS TO DATE</u>	<u>BALANCE REMAINING</u>
ERCS	25,000	17,245	7,755
TAT	12,750	3,200	9,750
TOTAL	37,750	20,245	17,505

5. DISPOSAL SUMMARY

WASTE STREAM	QUANTITY	DATE	DISPOSAL METHOD	FACILITY
SOIL				
DEBRIS	40 yards	12/16/91	landfill	Environ Tech
MERCURY- CONTAMINATED DEBRIS				